Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of disseminating information to a plurality of nodes, the nodes connected in a network environment, said method comprising:

receiving a disseminated message, the message having broadcast-type information; and

sending the received message to a plurality of other nodes identified in a partial view, wherein the partial view resides locally and identifies some of the other network nodes.

2.   (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the act of sending the message to a plurality of nodes further comprises delivery of the message to all nodes identified in the partial view.

3.   (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein each node in the network maintains a partial view.

4.   (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the partial view comprises address information for a plurality of nodes on the network, but less than all nodes on the network.

5.   (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the received message has been previously received; and

if the message has been previously received, then the message is not sent to any other nodes.

6.   (Original) A method as defined in claim 5 further comprising the act of storing identification information related to the received message to enable the determination of whether the message has been previously received.

7.   (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the message is a broadcast-type message; and

if the message is not a broadcast-type message, the message is not sent to other nodes.

8 - 19 (Canceled).

20.   (Original) A computer system for disseminating information in a distributed network comprising:

a receive module for receiving a broadcast message;

a storage module for storing information related to other nodes in the network in a partial view; and

a communication module for transmitting broadcast information to nodes indicated in the partial view.

21.   (Original) A computer system as defined in claim 20 wherein the partial view comprises address information for some of the nodes in the network.

22.   (Original) A computer system as defined in claim 20 wherein the communication module transmits broadcast information to all nodes identified in the partial view.

23.   (Original) A computer system as defined in claim 20 wherein the computer system is part of a distributed network of computer systems, and wherein other computer systems in the network maintain a partial view of the entire network.

24.   (Original) A network of nodes having the ability to communicate information between said nodes, said network comprising:

an application-based broadcast protocol using a gossip-based algorithm;

each node maintains a partial view of the entire network; and

each node gossips only to other nodes identified in the partial view.

25.   (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:

a first identification field for storing address location information for a node in a network environment;

a second identification field for storing address location information for another node in a network environment;

wherein the first and second identification fields represent a partial view of the network environment; and

wherein the data structure is used for a gossip-based communication between the nodes in the network.

26.   (Original) A data structure as defined in claim 25 having a plurality of additional identification fields, each field identifying address information for different nodes in the network.

27-29 (Canceled).